I am going to take the opportunity in this issue of VIM to promote the work of the All Saints’ College Foundation Limited (the Foundation). The Foundation has been an important entity at All Saints’ College for over 30 years and it continues to thrive.

Established in 1979, the Foundation was among the first of its kind in Australian schools, with a clear purpose to benefit the school. Over the years the Foundation has played an important role to the benefit of the school in two main areas. First, by financially supporting some students with scholarships. Second, in the construction and upgrade of many buildings on our present site.

Student financial support provided by the Foundation is a component of the annual ACER scholarship process. A limited number of Foundation Scholarships are available. An important source of funding is the Blacker Bequest. Dr Una Blacker was a student of Marsden Girls’ School (later to merge with All Saints’ College) during the time of Juliette Lyons as Headmistress. Dr Blacker was only able to attend Marsden because she had been granted a scholarship. Her gratitude for this opportunity was the bequest of a sum of money to be held in trust in perpetuity to provide scholarships to country girls to attend our school. We are very grateful to Dr Blacker and her commitment to enabling opportunities for students well into the future. She has set a fine example for us to consider.

Funds to support building projects have been raised over the years through direct project based appeals as well as through the accumulation of funds through membership to the Foundation. We currently enjoy facilities such as the Bickerdike Centre, the Foundation Block classrooms, the Reekie Language Centre and the upgrading of the Music Centre as a direct result of the contribution of the Foundation.

The Foundation has recently funded the engagement of an architect to develop plans to the point of construction for the redevelopment of the boys’ boarding accommodation. The Foundation has taken the lead in this project recognising the importance of providing contemporary facilities to our students. At the same time, the Foundation recognises the important place of boarding in the life of our school. The significant upgrading of our facilities for the boys was recognised by our school community in a feasibility study of our school community two years ago. I am very pleased the Foundation has been able to support this important project from the initial conceptualisation to architectural plans enabling construction.

The Foundation continues to be a vibrant part of All Saints’ College with an important role to play. Membership of the Foundation is open to everyone and there are a number of ways of making tax deductible financial contributions toward membership. I encourage everyone to look to ensuring they are an active member of the Foundation and seek to benefit our school and the lives of our students for many years to come.

Details of becoming a member of the Foundation are available on the College website under the heading ASC Foundation.